UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN RE:)	
)	CASE NO: 23-00656-DSC11
PREMIER CAJUN KINGS, LLC)	CHAPTER: 11
)	
DEBTOR.)	

FALLBROOK MHP, LLC'S MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM STAY

FALLBROOK MHP, LLC ("Landlord"), out of an abundance of caution and pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 362(b)(10) and 541(b)(2) of 11 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq. ("the Bankruptcy Code") moves this Court for relief from the automatic stay, if any such stay is in effect, to permit Landlord to request and execute on a writ of possession against its former tenant Debtor Premier Cajun Kings, LLC ("Debtor") from the nonresidential real property located at 2203 Moody Pkwy, Leeds, AL 35004 (the "Premises"). In support of this Motion, Landlord relies on the record, the Affidavit of Brad Dunn in Support of Fallbrook MHP, LLC's Motion for Relief from Stay attached hereto as Exhibit 1 (the "Dunn Affidavit"), and further states to wit:

I. <u>JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION.</u>

- 1. On March 14, 2023 (the "Petition Date"), Debtor Premier Cajun Kings, LLC ("Debtor") commenced this case, filing for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. [Doc. 1].
- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this Motion pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code and 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A) and (G). Venue of the Debtor's Chapter 11 case and this Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1409. The statutory predicate for the relief requested herein is Bankruptcy Code § 362.

II. FACTS.

- 3. On or before February 13, 2019, Landlord and Debtor executed that certain lease (the "Lease") for certain non-residential real property more specifically identified in the Lease (the "Premises"). (Dunn Aff. ¶ 2.) A true and correct copy of that lease is appended hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 4. Subsequently, Debtor defaulted on its obligations to pay rent due to Landlord under the terms of the Lease. (Dunn Aff. ¶ 3 and 4.)
- 5. On or about December 15, 2022, counsel for Landlord informed Debtor that it has elected to terminate the Lease as a result of Debtor's default under the Lease, and demanded that Debtor surrender possession of the Premises and pay all rent and other charges. (Dunn Aff. ¶ 3 and 4). A true and correct copy of that letter is appended hereto as Exhibit "B".
- 6. On January 10, 2023, Landlord filed an unlawful detainer complaint against the Debtor in the District Court of St. Clair County, Alabama (the "District Court"), Case No. 75-DV-2023-900014 (the "Unlawful Detainer") seeking possession only. (Dunn Aff. ¶ 5.) On or about March 1, 2023, the District Court entered a judgment for possession in favor of Landlord. A true and correct copy of the Order is appended hereto as Exhibit "C".
- 7. As of today's date, Debtor still has not vacated premises. Just day prior to the filing date, Landlord filed in the District Court for an application for a writ of possession. A true and correct copy of the application for possession is appended hereto as Exhibit "D".
- 8. Landlord contends that the automatic stay does not prohibit Landlord from executing on the Default Judgment for Possession only. However, out of an abundance of caution, Landlord seeks relief from the automatic stay to execute on the Judgment and to regain possession of the Premises.

III. LEGAL SUPPORT.

- 9. Bankruptcy Code § 362(a)(2) provides that the filing of a bankruptcy petition "operates as a stay, applicable to all entities, of... the enforcement, against the debtor or against property of the estate, of a judgment obtained before commencement of the case under this title..." 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(2).
- 10. Bankruptcy Code § 365(c)(3) provides that "...[t]he trustee may not assume or assign any executory contract or unexpired lease of the debtor, whether or not such contract or lease prohibits or restricts assignment of rights or delegation of duties, if... [s]uch lease is of nonresidential real property and has been terminated under applicable non-bankruptcy law prior to the order for relief." 11 U.S.C. § 365(c)(3).
- 11. Because the Lease itself (and not simply Debtor's right to possession of the Premises) was terminated before the Petition Date, the Lease does not constitute property of the estate and therefore the automatic stay does not apply. See *In re Moore*, 290 B.R. 851, 909 (Bankr. N.D Ala. 2003; *In re Western Healthcare, LLC*, 2010 WL 5300939, *3 (Bankr. N.D. Ala. 2010).
- 12. Additionally, Bankruptcy Code § 365(b)(10) further clarifies Bankruptcy Code § 365(a)(1) and provide that there is no stay in effect as to "any act by a lessor to the debtor under a lease of nonresidential real property that has terminated by the expiration of the stated terms of the lease before the commenced of or during a case under this title to obtain possession of such property." Accordingly, even if the Lease was property of the estate, there would be no stay in effect against Landlord's action to regain possession of the Premises. See *Western Healthcare*, *LLC*, 2010 WL 5300939 at *3.

¹ In re Morgan, 181 B.R. 579 (Bankr. N.D. Ala. 1994) involved a residential lease and may be inapplicable but the lease was terminated pre-petition.

13. Prior to the Petition Date, the Lease had been terminated. Accordingly,

Bankruptcy Code §§ 365(b)(10) and 541(b)(2) specifically provide that the automatic stay does

not apply to the Landlord's attempts to obtain possession of the Premises for the Lease.

14. Out of an abundance of caution, however, Landlord seeks relief from the

automatic stay to execute on the Default Judgment by obtaining a writ of possession for the

Premises.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Movant prays that this Court issue an

Order granting Fallbrook MHP, LLC relief from the automatic stay so that it can execute a writ

of possession on the Premises by entry of an order in substantially the same form as the proposed

order attached hereto as Exhibit "2", including a waiver of the stay established by Rule of

Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3), and that Fallbrook MHP, LLC be granted such other and

further relief as this Court deems just and appropriate.

By: <u>/s/ E.B. Harrison Willis</u>

E.B. Harrison Willis (WIL305)

Attorney for FALLBROOK MHP,

LLC

Of Counsel:

Cloud, Willis & Ellis, LLC

61 St Joseph Street, Suite 800

Mobile, AL 36602

(251) 545-4844

(205) 322-6060; ext. 104

hwillis@cloudwillis.com

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Motion was served upon the following via electronic means or by mailing same by United States First Class Mail in a properly addressed envelope with adequate postage affixed thereon to insure delivery, addressed as follows:

Per the attached mailing matrix And the below listed

Office of the Bankruptcy Administrator	Rachel L. Webber	
c/o Jon Dudeck, Esq.,	Assistant U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator	
1800 Fifth Avenue North	2005 University Blvd., Room 1300	
Birmingham, AL 35203	Tuscaloosa, AL 35401	
jon dudeck@alnba.uscourts.gov	rachel webber@alnba.uscourts.gov	
Debtor	Holland & Knight LLP	
c/o Aurora Management Partners	1901 Sixth Avenue N, Suite 1400	
112 South Tryon Street, Suite 1770	Birmingham, Alabama 35203	
Charlotte, NC 28284	Jesse S. Vogtle, Jr jesse.vogtle@hklaw.com	
Attention David Baker, CRO	Eric T. Ray - etray@hklaw.com	
dbaker@auroramp.com		
Cole Schotz PC	Counsel for unsecured creditors' committee	
300 East Lombard Street, Suite 1111	Robert Andrew Yarbro	
Baltimore, MD 21202	CHRISTIAN & SMALL LLP	
Gary H. Leibowitz - gleibowitz@coleschotz.com	1800 Financial Center	
Irving E. Walker - iwalker@coleschotz.com	505 North 20th Street	
H.C. Jones - hjones@coleschotz.com	Birmingham, AL 35203	
	Bill Bensinger - bdbensinger@csattorneys.com	
	Daniel Sparks - ddsparks@csattorneys.com	
	Robert Yarbro - ray@csattorneys.com	
counsel to PNC:	counsel to AIM Associates Capital Group, LLC	
Blank Rome LLP	Levine Kellogg Lehman Schneider Grossman LLP	
One Logan Square	Miami Tower, 100 SE 2nd Street	
130 N 18th Street	36th Floor, Miami, FL 33131	
Philadelphia, PA 19103	Thomas Lehman – trl@lklsg.com	
John E., Lucian – john.lucian@blankrome.com		
counsel to Popeyes	Burr Forman LLP	
Venable LLP	420 N 20th Street, Suite 3400	
100 SE 2nd Street, Suite 4400	Birmingham, AL 35203	
Miami, FL 33131	Derek Meek – dmeek@burr.com	
Paul J. Battista – pjbattista@venable.com		
Glenn D. Moses – gmoses@venable.com	·	

Done this 3rd day of April, 2023.

By: <u>/s/ E.B. Harrison Willis</u>
E.B. Harrison Willis (WIL305)
Attorney for FALLBROOK MHP, LLC

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lase 23-00656-DSC11
IORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
Iirmingham
Ion Apr 3 14:09:16 CDT 2023
Iomit Investment Group
1070 Montevallo Road SW

V.I.L. Enterprises, Inc. attn: Charles Warren .836 Polo Court loover, AL 35226-3363

irmingham, AL 35211-4426

NC Bank, National Association 1/o Jayna Lamar Laynard Cooper & Gale, P.C. 901 6th Ave N, Suite1700 Lirmingham, AL 35203-2629

'remier Cajun Kings, LLC '078 Peachtree Industrial Blvd #800 'eachtree Corners, GA 30071-1068

T and T
O Box 5076
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Alabama Power
O Box 242
Alimingham AL 35292-0001

B and T PCK Credit Cards attn John Saylor 201 Beechleaf Court 4th Floor aleigh NC 27604-0014

B and T Vantage ttn John Saylor 201 Beechleaf Court 4th Floor aleigh NC 27604-0014

illy Hammock Rev Commissioner :00 S Court St 'lorence AL 35630-5642 ALABAMA POWER COMPANY 600 NORTH 18TH STREET BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203-2200

FallBrook MHP, LLC Attn: Brad Dunn 26895Aliso Creek Road B876 Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-5301

Kemco Facilities Services, LLC 5750 Bell Circle Montgomery, AL 36116-4132

PeoplesSouth Bank c/o Parnell & Parnell, P.A. P.O. Box 2189 Montgomery, AL 36102-2189

River Bank & Trust c/o Parnell & Parnell, P.A. P.O. Box 2189 Montgomery, AL 36102-2189

Alabama Dept of Trans SE REG PO Box Office 8008 Montgomery AL 36110-0008

Amanda Scott CPA Morgan County Revenue Commissioner PO Box 696 Decatur AL 35602-0696

BB and T PKGA Credit Card Attn John Saylor 3201 Beechleaf Court 4th Floor Raleigh NC 27604-0014

BECO Investments LLC Attn Berj Barsoum 14 Sandrick Road Belmont MA 02478-4628

Birmingham Lock and Safe Inc PO Box 611315 Birmingham AL 35261-1315 Auburn Bank c/o Parnell & Parnell, P.A. P.O. Box 2189 Montgomery, AL 36102-2189

Hendon & Huckestein Architects, PC Attn: Erik N. Hendon 2126 Morris Avenue Birmingham, AL 35203-4210

Markou Revocable Trust C/O Darby Law Firm LLC PO Box 3905 Montgomery, Al 36109-0905

Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, Inc. c//o Burr & Forman LLP 420 North 20th Street, Suite 3400 Birmingham, AL 35203-3284

U. S. Bankruptcy Court Robert S. Vance Federal Building 1800 5th Avenue North Birmingham, AL 35203-2111

Alabama Lawn Masters PO Box 1648 Huntsville AL 35807-0648

Andalusia Utilities PO Box 790 Andalusia AL 36420-1215

BB and T PKI Credit Cards Attn John Saylor 3201 Beechleaf Court 4th Floor Raleigh NC 27604-0014

Best Beverage Service 7560 Owl Creek Drive Douglasville GA 30134-1001

Brendle Inc Fire and Safety Equipt 433 N Decatur St PO Box 1868 Montgomery AL 36102-1868 rinks Incorporated O Box 101031 stlanta GA 30392-1031 CBRE Inc Valuation and Advisory Serv PO Box 281620 Atlanta GA 30384-1620 CDI Customized Distribution PO Box 87618 Chicago IL 60680-0618

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'O Box 94188
'alatine IL 60094-4188

Charter Communications Brighthouse PO Box 7195 Pasadena CA 91109-7195 City of Fayetteville Property Tax Office 110 Elk Ave S Fayetteville TN 37334-3070

Hity of Jasper Revenue Dept 'O Box 1669 Fasper AL 35502-1669 Coca Cola North America PO Box 102703 Atlanta GA 30368-2703

Colonial Life PO Box 903 Columbia SC 29202-0903

TiQ ACH
O Box 269078
klahoma City OK 73126-9078

Dekalb Cherokee Counties Gas District 1405 Gault Ave S Fort Payne AL 35967-4837

Department of Labor 649 Monroe St Montgomery AL 36131-0099

epartment of Revenue efferson County Courthouse irmingham AL 35203 Desired Temp Service Contractors Inc PO Box 268 Bessemer AL 35021-0268 Diaz Brothers Plumbing Services LLC 5361 Rockwood Court Stone Mountain GA 30087-3747

Pixie Electric Cooperative 'O Box 2153 Firmingham AL 35287-0002 Domit Investment Group LLC Raymond MiltonCo Rep Mari Watkins Property Mgr 104 Oxmoor Rd Ste 144 Birmingham AL 35209-5937 Don Armstrong Property Tax Comm PO Box 1298 Columbiana AL 35051-1298

ynamic Media ACH :8283 Mound Road :terling Heights MI 48310-3466 Ecolab Inc PO Box 32027 New York NY 10087-2027 Ecolab Pest Elimination 26252 Network Place Chicago IL 60673-1262

ric Burks Asst Tax Collector O Box 1190 Wessemer AL 35021-1190 FC Enterprises 2199 Glenmore Lane Snellville GA 30078-5611 (p) FORD MOTOR CREDIT COMPANY P O BOX 62180 COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80962-2180

'allBrook MHP LLC ttn Brad Dunn :6895 Aliso Creek Road B876 diso Viejo CA 92656-5301 Fayetteville Public Utilities PO Box 120 Fayetteville TN 37334-0120 Floors Taylor Made PO Box 1411 Killen AL 35645-1411

'orsyth County Tax Commissioner .092 Tribble Gap Rd :umming GA 30040-2236 Fort Payne Improvement Authority PO Box 680617 Fort Payne AL 35968-1607 Fort Payne Water Works Board 153 20th Street NE Fort Payne AL 35967-3523 'ranke Foodservice Supply Inc :007 Innovation Way :hicago IL 60682-0080 GARS Incorporated 50 Industrial Pkwy Grayson GA 30017 Glenda Bowers Reed Attn Robby Reed 1606 Glenn Blvd SW Fort Payne AL 35968-3522

luardian
'O Box 677458
|allas TX 75267-7458

H&K International PO Box 180729 Dallas TX 75218-0729 HRGEMS Inc PO Box 110550 Naples FL 34108-0110

leadley Plumbing Co Inc 520 Main Street Hillbrook AL 36054-1820

Hendon and Huckestein Architects PC 2126 Morris Avenue Birmingham AL 35203-4210 Hugo Slevin and Michael OReilly 711 Grand Ave Suite 265 San Rafael CA 94901-3511

p) IPFS CORPORATION 0 MONTGOMERY STREET ULITE 1000 TERSEY CITY NJ 07302-3836 Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 7346 Philadelphia, PA 19101-7346 J I L Enterprises Inc Attn Charles Warren 926 Highland Lakes Lane Birmingham AL 35242-6845

DW Properties II LLC dtn James Wadsworth 11 LeJeune Way Iomewood AL 35209-4146 JP Premier Enterprises LLC Estate of Manraj S Sidhu co R Ritchey PO Drawer 4540 Montgomery AL 36103-4540 JT Smallwood Tax Collector 716 Richard Arrington JR Blvd N Room 160 Courthouse Birmingham AL 35203-0133

anet Buskey
O Box 4720
Iontgomery AL 36103-4720

Jeff Arnold Jackson Co Revenue PO Box 307 Scottsboro AL 35768-0307 Jerry Guthrie Walker Co Rev Comm 1803 3rd Ave Suite 102 Jasper AL 35501-5367

lelly Pettus
1994 Underwood Ferry Rd
lordova, AL 35550-5507

Kellys Foods Inc ACH 650 Carter Rd Winter Garden FL 34787-4100 Kenneth Crowe St Clair Revenue Commissioner 1815 Cogswell Ave Suite 205 Pell City AL 35125-1643

eeds Water Works Board 'O Box 100 eeds AL 35094-0002 MPE Services LLC 7787 Highway 75 Pinson AL 35126-2982 Markou Revocable Trust 25201 Madison Ave Murrieta CA 92562-8954

larshall DeKalb Electric Cooperative
'O Box 724
.0025 Hwy 168
loaz AL 35957-0724

Mary Ann Ellison Geneva Co Revenue Commissioner PO Box 326 Geneva AL 36340-0326 Mary Jane Porter Lincoln Co Trustee 112 Main Ave S Room 103 Fayetteville TN 37334-3032

Michael Johnson Marshall Co levenue Commissioner .24 Blount Ave Suite 124 funtersville AL 35976-1122 Montgomery Water Works and Sanitary Board PO Box 830692 Birmingham AL 35283-0692 National Tax Credit 4076 Paysphere Circle Chicago IL 60674-4076 leptune Flood Incorporated 10 Box 120562 lept 0562 lallas TX 75312-0562 NuCO2 PO Box 417902 Boston MA 02241-7902 Outdoor Link 3058 Leeman Ferry Road Huntsville AL 35801-6521

NC Bank Attn Becca Purcell 40 Madison Avenue lew York NY 10173-1903 Parsons Lee and Juliano PC Post Office Box 661228 Birmingham AL 35266-1228 Popeyes Attn Robin Schafer 5707 Blue Lagoon Drive Miami FL 33126-2015

opeyes Louisiana Kitchen s sublessor Attn Robin Schafer 707 Blue Lagoon Drive Nami FL 33126-2015 Premier Holding LLC Estate of Manraj S Sidhu co R Ritchey PO Drawer 4540 Montgomery AL 36103

Premier Holdings LLC Estate of Manraj S Sidhu co R Ritchey PO Drawer 4540 Montgomery AL 36103

remier Holdings of Georgia LLC state of M Sidhu co R Ritchey '078 Peachtree Ind Blvd Ste 800 'eachtree Corners GA 30071-1068 Premier Kings Holdings of Alabama LLC Estate of M Sidhu co R Ritchey PO Drawer 4540 Montgomery AL 36103-4540

Premier Kings Inc David M Baker CRO co Aurora 1201 Peachtree St Ste 1570 Atlanta GA 30361-3514

remier Kings of Georgia Inc avid M Baker CRO co Aurora 201 Peachtree St Ste 1570 tlanta GA 30361-3514 Premier Kings of North Alabama LLC David M Baker CRO co Aurora 1201 Peachtree St Ste 1570 Atlanta GA 30361-3514 Premium Stationers Inc 13841 Roswell Ave Suite J Chino CA 91710-5467

ro Kitchen .201 Rosewood Drive .olumbia SC 29201-4703 Purified Air Services Inc 280 Old Clay Street Marietta GA 30060-2248 RF Technologies Inc PO Box 142 Bethalto IL 62010-0142

odney Pettus License Commissioner O Box 1059 'lorence AL 35631-1059 Santa Cruz Land and Cattle Company Inc Attn Bill Anderson Treas PO Box 466 Santa Cruz CA 95061-0466 Sawnee EMC PO Box 2252 Birmingham AL 35246-1204

cana Energy
O Box 100157
tolumbia SC 29202-3157

Secretary of the Treasury 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20220-0001 Shoals MPE Services LLC 3311 County Road 47 Florence AL 35630-8933

icom Systems Inc O Box 930157 tlanta GA 31193-0157 Spire PO Box 2224 Birmingham AL 35246-0022 (p) STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE P O BOX 320001 MONTGOMERY AL 36132-0001

teritech O Box 14095 Leading PA 19612 Thomas Lee Macon IV Elmore Co Revenue Commissioner PO Box 1147 Wetumpka AL 36092-0020 Tierce Industrial Services PO Box 680780 Prattville AL 36068-0780 rimax Properties LLC attn Rhodes Russler 22 Appleton Lane ladison AL 35756-4161 Tuskegee UBT Cooperative District Attn Lawrence Haygood Jr 101 Fonville Street Tuskegee AL 36083-2021 U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Branch of Reorganization 950 East Paces Ferry Road Ste 900 Atlanta, GA 30326-1382

United Healthcare .316 Rice Lake Road Fuluth MN 55811-2950 United States Attorney Northern District of Alabama 1801 Fourth Avenue North Birmingham, AL 35203-2101 Valerie Miles Madison Co Tax Collector 1918 N Memorial Parkway Huntsville AL 35801-5938

'erifone ACH 100 South Park Place Blvd !learwater FL 33759-4932 Viking Cloud Inc Dept Ch 17101 Palatine IL 60055-7101

Waste Pro Atlanta PO Box 947245 Atlanta GA 30394-7245

Courtney K. Stone
Colland & Knight LLP
Colland Street, Suite 2700
Collashville, TN 37219-1791

Eric T Ray Holland & Knight LLP 1901 Sixth Ave N, Suite 1400 Birmingham, AL 35203-4605 Gary H. Leibowitz Cole Schotz P.C. 300 E. Lombard Street Suite 1111 Baltimore, MD 21202-3232

larry Conrad Jones III
Jole Schotz PC
JOU East Lombard Street, Suite 1111
Juite 1111
Juite 1111
Juite 1110

Irving Edward Walker
Cole Schotz PC
300 East Lombard Street, Suite 1111
Suite 1111
Baltimore, MD 21202-3232

Jesse S Vogtle Jr Holland & Knight LLP 1901 Sixth Ave N, Suite 1400 Birmingham, AL 35203-4605

'on A Dudeck Wankruptcy Administrator-Bham Office .800 5th Ave N Rm 132 Wirmingham, AL 35203-2126 Morgan L Allred Holland & Knight LLP 1901 6th Avenue North Suite 1400 Birmingham, AL 35203-4605 Rachel L. Webber Tuscalcosa BA Office 2005 University Blvd. Room 1300 Tuscalcosa, AL 35401-1526

The preferred mailing address (p) above has been substituted for the following entity/entities as so specified by said entity/entities in a Notice of Address filed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 342(f) and Fed.R.Bank.P. 2002 (g) (4).

ORD MOTOR CREDIT COMPANY, LLC OST OFFICE BOX 62180 OLORADO SPRINGS CO 80962 IPFS Corporation PO Box 730223 Dallas TX 75373 State of Alabama Dept of Revenue P O Box 320001 Montgomery AL 36132

The following recipients may be/have been bypassed for notice due to an undeliverable (u) or duplicate (d) address.

u) PNC Bank, N. A.

(u) Popeye's

(u) Renasant Bank

[u] Santa Cruz Land and Cattle Company

(d) Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 7346 Philadelphia, PA 19101-7346 (d)Kemco Facilities Services LLC 5750 Bell Circle Montgomery AL 36116-4132

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